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WINTER FOOD SITUATION IN BELGRADE -- Politika, No 13070, 1 Nov 48

About 14 million kilograms of potatoes are needed to supply Belgrade for the 7-month period when fresh vegetables and greens will not be available. As the Pancevacki Rit and Serbia cannot supply such a quantity, steps have been taken to close contracts with other republics, especially Slovenia. Over 150 carloads of potatoes have arrived from Slovenia, and 20 carloads from Croatia. The Belgrade district, which should have provided 50 carloads, has as yet delivered none.

The potato supply will be distributed by 651 markets. Holders of P-1 cards will be the first to receive potatoes. They will receive half the estimated amount. When all categories of consumers have received half their estimated ration, the remainder will be distributed.

The supply of meat and fats is somewhat better than during preceding months. There is still not enough lard, mainly because it is not butchering time. This month social institutions, dining halls, and holders of P-1 cards will be supplied with lard, and the others with oil. Meat for the citizens is about 60 percent mutton, 35 percent beef, and 5 percent pork. Larger deliveries of fish will supplement the meat supply. Belgrade residents received nearly 100,000 kilograms of fresh and a still larger amount of salted fish between 1 and 25 October. About 10,000 kilograms of butchered and 1,000 kilograms of live poultry, and 60,000 kilograms of sausage were distributed.

Over 100 new fruit and vegetable markets have greatly improved the supply situation. Daily receipts of grapes, for example, have risen from 7 or 8 carloads early in October to 12 or 13 now. There are only enough apples to satisfy about 40 percent of the demand. The supply would be improved if transport facilities were available from Gornji Milanovac, Cacak, and Uzicka Pozega. Also great quantities of apples rotted because certain crop-purchase stations failed to sort them properly.

Contracts have been made with food-processing plants to deliver 180 carloads of various processed fruits and vegetables. Belgrade citizens will receive 7 million carloads of marmalade, 130,000 kilograms of jam, 70,000 kilograms of dried vegetables, and 50,000 kilograms of fruit sirups. Although 60,000 kilograms of canned fruit have been delivered, since it will not keep more than 2 months, it will be sold as promptly as possible.

Milk deliveries have decreased from 80,000-90,000 liters in September to 50,000-60,000 liters per day. This is normal in the fall and winter. Efforts are being made to extend the milk-purchasing net, but even then supplies will be somewhat smaller than during the peak months of August and September.

The greatest problem is transport facilities. There are not enough trucks, and a good many of them are out of commission.

IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN BELGRADE MARKETS -- Politika, No 13063, 24 Oct 48

For several days, conditions on the Belgrade fruit and vegetable markets have been considerably improved. Produce has been distributed properly among the various markets. Prices are lower; the best grapes can be bought at 15 dinars per kilogram. Supplies of cabbage, onions, peppers, and other winter vegetables are increasing daily. Butter, cheese, cream, and lard are available, though prices as always are high.

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COLLECTIVES GROW THEIR OWN FOOD -- Glas, No 1036, 24 Oct 48

By September 1948, 26 farms totaling 1,140 hectares had been established by Belgrade workers' collectives to supplement their food supply. Of this area, 296 hectares are planted in vegetables, 603 in grain, and 296 are uncultivated. In August these farms produced 103,758 kilograms of vegetables, 9,508 kilograms of meat, 3,500 kilograms of fat, and large quantities of fall produce which have not yet been shipped; 16,648 hours of labor were donated.

About 35 Belgrade collectives now have their own farms, and others are being established. The motor enterprise has 50 hectares, the factory [possibly "Ivo-Lola Ribar"] in Zeleznik has 120 hectares, and Novi Beograd has 100 hectares.

LOANS FOR WINTER RATIONS -- Politika, No 13062, 23 Oct 48

Credits of 500 dinars for each member of a family will be extended to workers, employees, and officials for the purchase of winter food. Only workers, employees, and officials in large cities and industrial centers are eligible, except for inhabitants of smaller towns who are employed in government offices, institutions, and enterprises, in cooperatives, cooperative organizations, and cooperative enterprises, or in social and People's organizations and enterprises belonging to them. Those who are eligible to take their meals in dining halls will be ineligible unless their application is approved by their Union.

The loans will bear 2 percent annual interest. They may be used for the purchase of potatoes, beans, cabbage, and onions.

RATION CARDS -- Borba, No 262, 28 Oct 48

The Ministry of Trade and Supply warns that consumers' ration cards that have been lost or stolen can in no case be replaced, and instructs the citizens not to apply for duplicates.

CROP PURCHASE OF RICE IN MACEDONIA -- Borba, No 258, 24 Oct 48

The crop purchase of unpolished rice in Macedonia is progressing well. The producers are bringing in their uncontrolled surpluses as well as their quotas. In Strumica District, where results are best, the plan to date has been filled 117 percent. In Kocane District, where the best rice is produced, 71 percent more rice has been purchased than was called for in the plan. Crop purchasing was to begin next month in the Titovalea District, but it has already begun, and 36 percent of the plan has been met by 19 October. The crop purchase at Djorce Petrov, Radoviste, Gostivar, and Stip will begin during the first half of November.

CROP-PURCHASE FIGURES IN MACEDONIA -- Borba, No 257, 23 Oct 48

The Bitolj District People's Council reports that the plans for crop purchase from district farmers were met 120 percent for white grains, 120 percent for meat, 101 percent for wool, and 310 percent for bogs.

MEDICINAL PLANTS IN MONTENEGRO -- Borba, No 258, 24 Oct 48

This year's plan for the crop purchase of medicinal plants in Montenegro has been fulfilled 93 percent so far. Climatic conditions are the chief factor in the failure to meet the plan. Only one tenth of the quota of linden blossoms was gathered because of weather conditions. Other medicinal plants are being harvested. Juniper and laurel leaves are gathered mainly in winter.

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Forty-four tons of various medicinal plants have been bought up by the District Cooperative Union of Pljevalja. Eleven tons were sold at controlled prices in Durmitor District, and 10 tons in Kolasin and Andrijevic districts. About 15 tons of laurel leaves were bought up in the Montenegrin Primorje. Continual rains in Njasio District have substantially lowered its contribution.

According to their contract, the District Cooperative Unions in Berane and Bijelo Polje must sell 7 tons of gentian, which is very plentiful in this district. However, the District Cooperative Union in Berane has fulfilled only 30 percent of its quota due to its failure to organize a crop-purchase plan for this very important item of export. A similar situation exists in the Titograd and Danilovgrad districts in the case of wormwood, and in northern districts of Montenegro for juniper.

The collecting warehouses in Niksic and Risan can accommodate only 50 percent of the plants collected because of a shortage of storage space. They have no trucks and no drying facilities.

CROP PURCHASE OF SUNFLOWER SEEDS -- Borba, No 262, 28 Oct 48

Sunflower seeds are the chief raw material for the production of edible oils, and consequently are an important factor in the food-supply situation. However, the crop-purchase program for this important commodity has been poorly organized. Field officers of the United Food-Processing Industry, operating from offices rather than in the field, have made inaccurate estimates of the crops and obligations of individual producers, who, in their turn fail to hand over the full amounts due, and the crop-purchase plan is not met.

The withheld seeds usually are taken to some small privately owned seed-processing plant which can utilize only 10 or 12 percent of the component of the seeds, and waste the rest. Much more oil is produced in factories from the same amount of seeds. In November 1945 the Ministry of Industry prohibited these oil plants from working for this reason, but some, including two small oil-processing plants at Bac, are still operating.

Seeds cannot be purchased unless the oil-processing plants furnish plenty of sacks promptly. Sufficient personnel, storage space, and transport facilities also must be provided for by the crop-purchase officials. Insufficient attention to these matters is responsible for many failures.

The Ministry of Light Industry of the FPRY (Federated People's Republic of Yugoslavia) has provided a bonus for crop-purchase officials for each carload of seeds purchased in excess of the plan.

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